

GUIDELINES FOR NAVAL AVIATION INSIGNIA PROGRAM
AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES

1. The Naval Aviation Insignia Program establishes the requirements and procedures for securing approval of Navy and Marine Corps aviation command insignia. The final approving authority for all Naval Aviation command/unit insignia, with the exception of aviation ships, is Chief of Naval Operations.

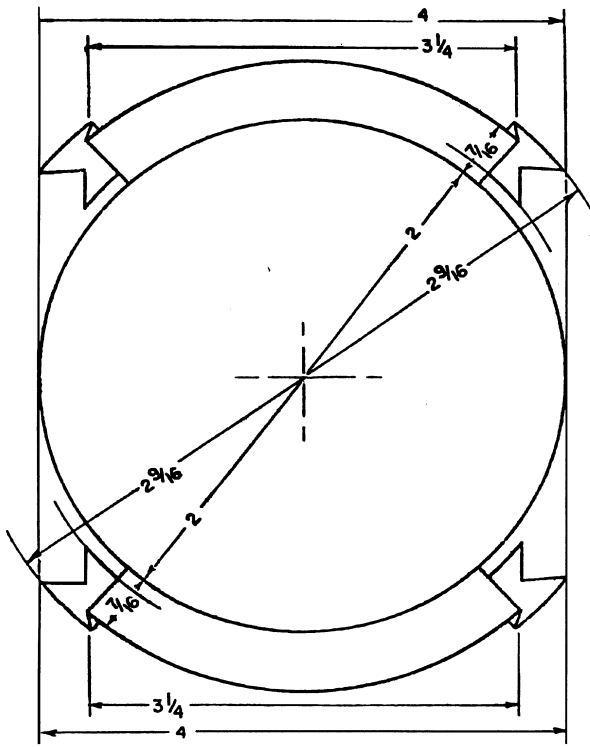
2. Requirements of Size and Shape

a. Circular. Commands at the squadron level shall have an insignia contained entirely within a circle of 4 inches in diameter. The circle shall be a part of the design.

b. Triangular. Commands above the squadron level, such as Carrier Air Wings, Naval Air Stations, Patrol Wings, and other upper echelon commands, shall have an insignia contained entirely within an equilateral triangle whose sides are 5 inches. The triangle shall be a part of the design. Its point may be either up or down.

c. Scrolls. The addition of scrolls to circular designs shall be immediately below and touching the circle and used only for unit designations, such as VF-10, VMA-151, VR-50, TACRON-11, etc. A scroll added immediately above and touching the circle may contain a motto or nickname which shall be in keeping with the dignity of the Naval Service. Scrolls may be used with triangular designs but must remain within the triangle.

d. The following is an example of circular insignia with scrolls and the required dimensions. All dimensions on this design are in inches.



3. Content Requirements

a. An insignia is expected to reflect the professional character of a command and its readiness to perform its appointed missions. It must always be in keeping with the dignity of the Naval Service. Any insignia which degrades human dignity or fails to promote a positive image for the Navy will not be approved. The design should be able to stand the "test of time" and should not be changed because of a modification in mission, change in assigned aircraft or redesignation of the

command. ONCE AN INSIGNIA IS APPROVED FOR A COMMAND, IT WILL BECOME A PERMANENT PART OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, SIMILAR TO A FAMILY CREST. Designs should be selected with these facts in mind.

b. A heraldic design appropriate to a naval aviation theme is desired, keeping in mind that the design will become the recognized symbol of the squadron or command. It may include appropriate symbols such as mythical beasts, fowl, fish, the sea, the air or geometric symbols or designs. Designs such as the Tophatters (VFA-14);

the boars head design of the Red Rippers (VF-11); and the mailed fist and trident of VP-46, are well known to everyone in Naval Aviation and have withstood the "test of time."

c. The design should be simple, with one or two items, as opposed to cluttered with many items. The latter is a very common mistake and lessens the impact of the insignia, particularly when viewed from a distance. The design should be developed in strong colors of good contrast.

d. The design should be dignified rather than humorous. Mythological and heraldic figures are permissible and encouraged. The following shall not be used:

(1) Any cartoon-type figures.

(2) Obscene or excessively gruesome figures or figures that rely on ludicrous exaggeration of physical characteristics or features. Common violations in this area are animals wearing articles of human clothing or performing human tasks.

(3) Recognizable aircraft or ship designs.

(4) Badges of qualification.

(5) Decorations or campaign ribbons.

(6) National and state insignia.

(7) Service insignia and cap devices.

e. Copyrighted designs in whole or in part shall not be used unless a written statement is received from the copyright holder permitting the use of the design in the squadron/command's insignia. A copy of this approval letter must accompany the unit's insignia request before the insignia can be officially authorized. Use of copyrighted designs shall be in accordance with copyright laws and presented in such a manner that they do not suggest endorsement of the product or service involved.

f. Naval Aviator wings, to include those of Naval Flight Officers, aircrewman, etc., although a badge of qualification may be used as a symbol of naval aviation as a

whole by fleet air commands, naval air stations, and others above squadron level, provided they are not altered. Where applicable and with the same provisions, the additional use of other officially authorized aviation wings by these commands is permissible. **Circular designs are prohibited from using these wings.**

g. Mottoes, any type of lettering, names, designations, and designation numbers shall not be used within circular designs. Designations should be placed in the lower scroll and mottoes or nicknames in the upper scroll. Triangular designs may incorporate a motto, nickname and/or designation inside the triangle. Mottoes or nicknames must not degrade human dignity or fail to promote a positive naval image.

h. Insignia currently approved are exempt from the provisions of this paragraph as long as they remain in continuous use, are not modified in any respect, and meet the Navy's core values by not degrading human dignity or failing to promote a positive image for the Navy.

4. Display. No insignia may be displayed or used until officially approved.

a. Officially approved aviation insignia may be displayed on official flight clothing, unit flags and plaques.

b. The display of insignia on aircraft must conform to references (b), (c), and (d).

5. Insignia Approval Procedure

a. All requests for approval shall be addressed to the Chief of Naval Operations, Assistant for Naval Aviation History and Publications (N78H), through the aviation administrative chain of command. The direct mailing address is: Chief of Naval Operations (N78H), Washington Navy Yard, 1242 10th Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20374-5059. Any questions concerning the historical background of a command's insignia should also be addressed to the Assistant for Naval Aviation History and Publications (CNO(N78H)). The phone number is (202) 433-2321 or DSN 288-2321.

b. Proposed insignia shall be submitted with two full-color renditions, drawn according to the specifications contained here, and in the final form desired by the command. If approved, one copy of the design will be retained by the approving authority for record purposes and the other copy returned to the command as the approved insignia.

c. A brief accompanying statement of the significance or meaning of the design and its components should be included with the insignia approval request.

d. Upon receiving notification of approval of an insignia, the command will forward to the Assistant for Aviation History and Publications (CNO(N78H)) one full-color 70mm negative or a high-resolution electronic tiff image (400 dpi) for incorporation into the insignia archives.

e. When a command is redesignated, a new negative and photograph or electronic image (see paragraph d above for type) showing the new squadron designation in the lower scroll must be forwarded to CNO (N78H).

6. Application

a. With the exception of aviation ships, this instruction applies to all Navy and Marine Corps aviation activities listed in the Standard Navy Distribution List (SNDL) Part 1 and Part 2. **Squadron detachments will use the insignia approved for their parent squadron. Separate insignia for detachments, even permanently established detachments, will not be approved.**

b. Insignia of aviation speciality codes or job functions, such as rescue swimmer, will not be approved under this instruction.

c. Currently approved insignia are exempt from the provisions of paragraph 4, as long as they remain in continuous use, are not modified in any respect, and are in conformance with the standards of dignity espoused by this instruction. Commands with these insignia, grandfathered for approval by this instruction, are authorized a one-time option to modify or change their existing insignia. This

OPNAVINST 5030.4F
16 January 2002

option applies only to those squadrons listed in enclosure (2). Future insignia approved under the guidelines of this instruction will become a permanent part of the command's history and lineage.